

Atty Docket No.: JCLA6695

Serial No.: 09/667,836

In The Claims

Claim 1. (canceled)

2. (previously Amended) A tablet cutting apparatus for cutting a tablet at a predetermined location, comprising:

a blade for cutting the tablet;

an arranging device for arranging a long side of the tablet to be perpendicular to the tablet's moving direction by moving the tablet for a predetermined distance;

an oblique plate, with a first end coupled to the arranging device for receiving the tablet and then making the tablet arranged by the arranging device to fall along the oblique plate, and a second end that is located in vicinity of the blade;

a shutter, located at the second end of the oblique plate, for stopping the tablet fallen from the oblique plate;

a retainer device, located above the oblique plate for retaining the tablet from the long side of the tablet stopped by the shutter; and

a conveying device located above the blade, for conveying the tablet adjusted by the retainer device to a cutting location, so that the tablet is cut in half from its center.

Claims 3-6 (canceled)

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the arranging device comprises a pushing plate for pushing the tablet to move forwards.

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8. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the arranging device comprises a pushing plate for pushing the tablet to move along an arc path.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the arranging device comprises a pushing plate for pushing the tablet to move along an arc path; and a baffle plate for radially applying a force on the front end of the tablet while the baffle plate is contact with the front end of the tablet.

10. (Previously Amended) A tablet cutting apparatus for cutting a tablet at a predetermined location, comprising:

a rotary blade for rotationally cutting the tablet;

an arranging device for arranging a long side of the tablet to be perpendicular to the tablet's moving direction by moving the tablet for a predetermined distance, wherein the rotary blade is located at a downstream side of the arranging device;

a retainer device, coupled to the arranging device, for retaining the tablet arranged by the arranging device from the long side of the tablet such that the position of the tablet is coincident with a location corresponding to the rotary blade; and

a conveying device located above the rotary blade, for conveying the tablet adjusted by the retainer device to the location of the rotary blade, so that the tablet is cut in half from its center.

11. (Previously Amended) A tablet cutting apparatus for cutting a tablet at a predetermined location, comprising:

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a rotary blade for rotationally cutting the tablet;

an arranging device for arranging a long side of the tablet to be perpendicular to the tablet's moving direction by moving the tablet along an arc channel;

a position modification device, located between the rotary blade and the arranging device, for further modifying the position of the tablet fallen from the arranging device such that the long side of the tablet is perpendicular to the tablet's falling direction;

a retainer device, coupled to the position modification device, for retaining the tablet rearranged by the position modification device from the long side of the tablet such that the position of the tablet is coincident with a location corresponding to the rotary blade; and

a conveying device located above the rotary blade, for conveying the tablet adjusted by the retainer device to the location of the rotary blade using a rotary roller and resilient plates, so that the tablet is cut in half from its center,

wherein a force applied on the tablet during cutting is similar to that applied to the rotary roller and is for setting a relative position of the rotary blade and the conveying device and a rotational direction of the rotary blade.

Claim 12 (canceled)

13. (Previously Amended) A tablet cutting device, comprising:

a blade for cutting the tablet;

an arranging device for arranging a long side of the tablet to be perpendicular to the tablet's moving direction by moving the tablet for a predetermined distance;

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an oblique plate, with a first end coupled to the arranging device for receiving the tablet and then making the tablet arranged by the arranging device to fall along the oblique plate, and a second end where is in vicinity of the blade;

a shutter, located at the second end of the oblique plate, for stopping the tablet fallen from the oblique plate and further rearranging the position of the tablet;

a retainer device, coupled to the position modification device, for retaining the tablet from the long side of the tablet stopped by the shutter such that the position of the tablet is coincident with a location corresponding to the rotary blade; and

a conveying device located above the blade, for conveying the tablet adjusted by the retainer device to a cutting location, so that the tablet is cut in half from its center,

wherein the retainer device is expanded within a range for guiding the tablet before the conveying device is driven.